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thesis that "our plutocrats rank as nothing more or less than as so many unavoidable creations of a set of processes which must imperatively produce a certain set of results" (cf. Preface, iv), he need not have omitted a single truth, and yet would have escaped the accusation of "prejudicial treatment."

In all three volumes there is a lack of systematic arrangement of subject-matter that woefully bewilders the reader. One never knows when the principal narrative may be interrupted by accounts of proletarian distress. The author says in explanation (II, 54), "that merely to narrate the acts of the capitalists of the period is of no enduring value unless it be accompanied by a necessary contrast of how government and capitalist acted toward the worker." But however necessary the contrast, the accounts are frequently introduced most inopportunistly for purposes of logical development. For example, in chap. vii of Vol. II, entitled "The Vanderbilt Fortune in the Present Generation" (pp. 223-59), there begins on p. 224 a discussion of the labor movement of 1886, including an account of the "Haymarket tragedy," the labor uprising in New York, the victory of Tammany Hall, entitled "Capitalist Triumph by Fraud," and the collapse of the Labor Party. Reference is also made to the anti-trust agitation of the period, and finally, on p. 243 comes the transition to the interrupted narrative of the Vanderbilt fortune.

In conclusion, it should be said that the volumes under discussion are frankly heralded as material for the socialistic propaganda. The intolerant partisanship of the author, together with the fact that the accounts of individual fortunes are almost wholly informational rather than analytical, puts the work outside the field of theoretical economic writing. Nor, indeed, is it at all likely that the author would desire to see it thus classified. Despite criticism, it is nevertheless true that a large amount of interesting and valuable historical material has been amassed. Active research and exhaustive perusal of the official reports of innumerable investigating committees have enabled Mr. Myers to present a damning array of evidence to support his main contention that property is theft. Perhaps it is not to be wondered at that, even when there is lack of clear proof of wrongdoing, Mr. Myers is apt to assume the guilt of the accused.

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*The History of Labor Legislation in Iowa.* By E. H. DOWNEY. Iowa City: State Historical Society of Iowa, 1910. 8vo, pp. x+283.

The "Iowa Economic History Series" to which this volume belongs is justified by the editor, Professor B. F. Shambaugh, in the fact that "in writing the history of commonwealths it is no longer possible to ignore industrial developments" and the further fact that "history may be exploited in the cause of social betterment." This particular work treats the labor legislation of Iowa, taking it up historically. The opening paragraph of the author's preface states very accurately the plan of the work. "Under each division of the main subject the principal laws that have been enacted are set forth, with some account of the conditions and influences that led to their passage and some discussion of their practical operation." There are nine divisions or topics in addition to the Introduction and Appendix, in the latter of which revisions of laws made since the

writing of the book are noted. The divisions are: "Wages," "Convict Labor," "Mine Labor," "Railway Labor," "Factory Laws," "Child Labor," "Employers' Liability," "Miscellaneous Labor Legislation," and "The Iowa Bureau of Labor Statistics." In the Introduction labor legislation is defined as including "all statutory provisions designed to regulate the conditions of employment or to protect wage-earners from exploitation" (p. 1). This serves as the test by which material for the work has been included or rejected.

To one who does not approach the subject of labor legislation with an interest already somewhat lively, the book will be forbidding in its array of facts and dates, by which is shown concretely the development of a body of legislation. If such an interest exists the book is most absorbing. There are no generalizations, no theories advanced. Between the lines, however, stand out clearly the beginnings of the development of an industrial state. Problems elsewhere old and even nearly solved are in this volume shown to be new and demanding solution in Iowa. The failure of first efforts at legislation and the constant amendment until laws are strengthened and improved are traced in particular instances. The opposition of special interests, the unconcern of public opinion, the persistent agitation by a few, the slow awakening of public opinion, and finally the enactment of legislation show again the story familiar in the experience of other states. Then the difficulties of enforcement and the successful evasion of the law for a time, again repeat experiences elsewhere. The older topics, such as lien laws, are much more definitely settled in the state. The newer topics, such as child labor, are not yet so satisfactorily settled. Factory laws are better than their enforcement, as they usually are where they are comparatively new. All of these matters are carefully traced from the facts of the state's legislative history.

The difficulties of the work lie in part in the fact that "materials for a history of labor legislation in Iowa are scant and unsatisfactory. Economic statistics are far less complete in Iowa than in the more advanced industrial states." Further difficulties in such a work lie in the order of arrangement and presentation. The plentifulness of the material presented is evidence of painstaking search and the arrangement is evidence of a comprehensive grasp of the materials. Each chapter works out a complete topic historically, closing, in some cases, with suggestions for the future.

It would have given a clearer understanding of the play of the various forces that bring about legislation if a more complete account had been given of the agencies at work. The difficulty in doing this cannot be overlooked, and yet its advantage is very great. One may doubt whether the influence of organized labor is not in some cases overemphasized, for we cannot lose sight of the fact that union advocacy of a measure will usually arouse some opposition that would not otherwise appear.

The plan of references to authorities has been worked out evidently with reference to the appearance of the page rather than the convenience of the reader. The plan doubtless accomplishes the former object, but it does not aid the reader who wishes to follow the authorities. There are 875 notes. These are placed in numerical order in fifty pages at the end of the last chapter. Most of these notes, to be sure, are references to the laws of Iowa, legislative journals, and reports. Yet many interesting points are concealed among them. Note "77" is a suggestive statement about loan sharks and is well worth the extra turning of

pages to find, if the reader were sure that it did not refer to the page-reference to some public document. Note "250" after some turning of pages is finally found to inform the reader that "the italics are the writers's." Such variations in the value of the references make the readers uncertain how many of them to consult. When one reads, on p. 68, "Prices for most staple articles at the company stores are not now higher than credit prices elsewhere,<sup>2621</sup>" experience may have led one to assume that "262" refers to a page-reference for the authority. In fact, over on p. 229, the note says: "There is some difference of opinion on this point. The statement in the text is supported by the testimony of state mine inspectors and officials of the United Mine Workers." Certainly some of the more valuable of these references might have been placed where the reader could readily see them.

The work is a valuable addition to existing knowledge of the growth of labor legislation, and its close relation to industrial development. It is to be hoped that the same work will be done for other states, both those more fully developed industrially and those less fully developed. "Social betterment" will profit by comparative studies and comparative studies are only possible with more such works as this one.

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*The Future of Trades-Unionism and Capitalism in a Democracy.* By CHARLES W. ELIOT. New York: Putnam, 1910. 8vo, pp. 128. \$1.00 net.

"The objects and ends of democracy," says ex-President Eliot, "are freedom and appropriate opportunity for the individual, wide though not equal distribution of property, and the untrammelled pursuit of the durable satisfactions of life. The effective democratic powers for good are the intelligence of the mass of the people increased through universal education, the efficiency of the people at work through the exercise of individual liberty and co-operative good will, and the maintenance throughout the life of each individual of the hope and expectation of improving his own or his family's lot." He then proceeds to inquire how far trade unionism and capitalism are in sympathy with these ethical and economic principles of modern democracy. Admitting that trade unions are eminently desirable, he expresses the belief that they are no longer primarily actuated by the more humanitarian motives which guided them during the first three-quarters of the century but rather by a desire for private gain for a special class. He condemns as monopolistic practices the boycott, the union label, and the limitation of apprentices, opposes the minimum wage, and denotes limitation of output as the most degrading of all. Such practices tend to defeat competition; they are undemocratic; and the reasonable ends of trade unionism can be attained by adequate publicity and the development of a co-operative spirit between labor and capital. Similarly all methods of capitalism tending toward monopoly are to be condemned; a sincere care for the welfare of the worker is necessary, such as provision for old age or for technical, intellectual, and ethical training; and full publicity must be welcomed. The ideals which the author thus holds up are such as must be constantly kept in mind even if, as many will believe, any immediate step toward their attainment necessitates more active state interference than is here suggested.